

**H. R. 693.**

[No Report.]

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 28, 1848.

Read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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Mr. COLLAMER, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported the following bill :

**A BILL**

To grant the right of way across the public lands, and to dispose of said land in aid of the several States in the construction of railroads and canals.

1      *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-*  
2 *sentatives of the United States of America in Congress*  
3 *assembled,* That whenever any State in which public land  
4 is situated, have or shall authorize the construction of any  
5 railroad or canal, and the route of the same shall have  
6 been surveyed and returned to the Secretary of the  
7 Treasury, the right of way on said route, so far as the same  
8 is situated on the public land be, and the same is hereby,  
9 granted for said purpose, and also the right to take stone  
10 and timber, and materials for said erection on any of the

11 public land adjacent, so long as said land is unsold ; and  
12 the land, for the space of one hundred feet on each side of  
13 the middle of said route, shall be, and remain for that pur-  
14 pose, so long as said canal or railroad is sustained.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That when the  
2 survey of said route shall have been returned to the Sec-  
3 retary of the Treasury, he shall, at the request of the gov-  
4 ernor of said State, reserve from public sale all, or so much  
5 of the public lands, within ten miles of said route, as said  
6 governor, by direction of the legislature of said State, shall  
7 request, and the same shall be retained for said State and  
8 shall be sold and conveyed to said State, or to whoever  
9 said State shall direct, at and for the price of one dollar  
10 and twenty-five cents per acre, in such quantities and at  
11 such times as said State shall desire, in aid of said con-  
12 struction: *Provided, nevertheless,* That said route shall  
13 be so surveyed and returned, and said land so reserved,  
14 within three years from the passing of this law ; and all  
15 of said land not actually so purchased and paid for by  
16 said State, within ten years from the passing of this act,  
17 shall be subject to sale and private entry, in the same man-  
18 ner as if the same had not been reserved: *And provided,*  
19 *further,* That this act shall not extend to any land but  
20 such as is subject to private sale at one dollar and twenty-  
21 five cents per acre.